

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of July 23, 2009 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 11 - 20 were previously indicated as being allowed (Office Action of February 9, 2009). The latest Office Action reverses the prior indication of allowance and rejects claims 1 - 19 as follows: claims 12 - 16 and 18 under 35 USC 102(a) by Ohta et al (newly cited); claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a) over Ohta et al in view of Kubena et al; and claims 17 and 19 under 35 USC 103(a) over Ohta et al in view of Kubena et al and Dual et al. Claims 20 is objected to and indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In reply to the noted latest Office Action, claim 20 has been cancelled and presented in independent form as new claim 21. As such, new claims 21 should be in allowable condition.

The noted rejections have been carefully considered and are respectfully traversed.

The basic reference applied in each of the noted rejections is the newly cited patent to Ohta et al. The examiner refers, in effect, to Fig. 15 and suggests certain structural elements that would anticipate claim 12. Applicant cannot agree that there is disclosed by Ohta et al a "force detecting unit" (claims 12 and 15) or "using a force detection unit mechanically coupled to the securement," (claim 11). In the examiner's commentary the examiner mentions the "force detection unit" as part of "[t]he above arrangement." Where in the "above arrangement"? It is not clear specifically what structure or disclosure amounts to the "force detection unit."

The remaining references do not, it is respectfully submitted, overcome this deficiency in Ohta et al; so that neither the rejection under 35 USC 102 (claims 12 and 15), nor the rejection under 35 USC 103 (claim 11) can be sustained.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 11- 19 found Allowable along with claim 21.

Please charge the additional claim fee to Dep. Acc. No. 02-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in a cursive style.

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